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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. EWING].

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

May 8, 1997.

I hereby designate the Honorable THOMAS W. EWING to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NEWT GINGRICH,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

At our best moments, O God, when we think we have accomplished so much, we acknowledge our dependence on You. When we stand for our precepts and creeds, we realize we do not stand alone. When we are proud of our ideas or ideals, we admit that there have been those foundations that have girded and guided us throughout the years. We offer this prayer of thanksgiving, gracious God, for those people who, from the beginning of our lives, have encouraged and supported us in good times and bad. Bless them and us and keep us all in Your grace, now and evermore. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5, rule I, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina [Mr. BALLENGER] come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain seven 1 minutes on each side.

### FEDERAL FUNDING OF EDUCATION

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I am a firm believer that when money is allocated for a specific purpose, it should be used for that purpose. This is not the case with Federal dollars allocated to improving our educational system. A recent study has estimated that 15

percent of every Federal dollar earmarked for education is eaten up by the Washington bureaucracy before the funds even reach the local school districts.

To top that off, as a part of a committee project to determine what works and what is wasted in American education, we found that it takes local school districts nearly 480 steps and 26 weeks just to receive a grant from the Federal Government. Local school districts have to put time, money, and staff into obtaining Federal money earmarked for education and then watch as 15 percent of every dollar is spent before the funds even reach the school. After you factor in local costs, imagine how much more Federal money does not get to our children.

If the Federal Government is going to be about providing funds for education, let us ensure that the dollars get down to the local school districts and free school districts from costly paperwork tied to Federal funds.

### CHOOSE FOR CHILDREN

(Mr. ALLEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I appeal this morning to my Republican colleagues to choose for children. I urge them to restore the \$38 million their leaders cut from the President's supplemental appropriation request for the Women, Infants and Children Program and, as we move forward in the budget process, to support full funding for WIC.

WIC pays for milk, cereal, and formula, basics that we know reduce low birth weight, infant mortality, and child anemia. The GAO says that every dollar invested in WIC's prenatal program saves \$3.50 in Medicaid spending. That is why AT&T's CEO Robert Allen calls WIC "the health care equivalent of a Triple-A investment."

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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